**Secretary Speaker Series: A Special Conversation with Adina Merenlender**

**Panelist Bios and Webinar Links**

Secretary Speaker Series: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

Secretary Wade Crowfoot: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Celebrate Earth Day with us! -** <https://resources.ca.gov/earthday2024>

**Adina Merenlender, Author and Conservation Scientist**

Bio: <https://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu/people/adina-merenlender>

Author spotlight: <https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/56853/author-spotlight-adina-merenlender-on-climate-stewardship-as-a-joyful-movement/>

More on Climate Stewardship book: **University Press (book link)**

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520378940/climate-stewardship>

Adina Merenlender is an internationally recognized conservation biologist who has authored more than 100 published works. She currently works as a Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Environmental Science, Policy, and Management Department at UC Berkeley. Adina started the UC California Naturalist program and is now helping to build UC Climate Stewards to increase climate literacy and help citizens take an active role in climate stewardship. In addition to Climate Stewardship, she is also the co-author of Corridor Ecology and The California Naturalist Handbook.

**Eileen Mitro, Founding Member, Climate Action Mendocino**

Climate Action Committee of Mendocino County:<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/community/mendocino-county-climate-action-advisory-committee>

Eileen is a certified and practicing Climate Steward and California Naturalist and she is also the Coordinator of Climate Action Mendocino and an active member of the GrassRoots Institute's Climate Crisis Working Group.  These groups focus on Mendocino County climate action both for individuals to reduce personal carbon footprints and for climate policy resolutions and government policy actions at local City Councils and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.  Eileen is also an active member of CA Jobs First Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy).  RRRISE is a regional effort focusing on 4 counties: Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt and Del Norte for inclusive action to bring sustainable jobs to all local populations, including all tribes.  Eileen also participates in the Renewable and Resilient Sector Table of the RISE group.

Ukiah Daily Journal:

<https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2021/10/19/ukiah-residents-can-cut-carbon-emissions-at-home/>

**Ava Post Koo Interim Director of Green Initiatives at Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)**

**Watts Labor Community Action Committee -** <https://wlcac.org/>

WLAC Climate Services (More on MudTown Farms) - <https://wlcac.org/services/climate/>

Bio: Ava Post is a professional horticulturist and environmental advocate for over 12 years managing

and creating nonprofit gardens. As Interim Director for MudTown Farms at Watts Labor

Community Action Committee, Ava has been involved in program and grant writing and

management, fundraising, community engagement and urban farming in a nonprofit setting.

As a lifelong environmental justice advocate, Ava performed soil testing and consulted for non-profit community garden organizations and schools in Los Angeles to mitigate risk of exposure to lead and other soil contaminants. Ava also worked with the Jordan Downs Environmental Justice Coalition to help organize and reduce hazardous fugitive dust exposure to residents in Watts. Currently at MudTown Farms, Ava leads culturally-progressive programming and grants such as free renter-friendly backyard farm custom designs and installations, bi-lingual urban farm classes, and bi-monthly produce distribution events that distribute over 350,000 pounds of food annually to community members most in need.

At UCLA Extension, Ava takes a holistic approach to teaching Plant Materials for Landscape Use, where students can expect to identify and understand over 170 plants to be used in a variety of landscape styles and conditions in a changing climate.

**Ashley Terry, Senior Program Manager, the Oakland Zoo**

Bio: <https://www.amzap.org/california/ashley-terry>

The Oakland Zoo: <https://www.oaklandzoo.org/>

Ashley Terry provides first-line instruction to guests and trains education staff to deliver school, scout, and overnight programming. In addition, Ashley leads groups and individual tours, designs curriculum supporting the mission of the Zoo, and presents education animals. Ashley brings a well-rounded perspective to the education department. She started her zoo career as a keeper at the Oakland Zoo in 2009 and has experience providing applied behavioral analysis therapy for k-12 students. Driven by her passion for animals and wildlife, Ashley is a certified California Naturalist through the UC California Naturalist program and a CalNat Climate Steward instructor for the Conservation Society of California. A lifelong California and Bay Area native, Ashley graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Anthropology and Concordia University, Nebraska with a Master of Education in Environmental Education and Curriculum Writing. She is currently a Doctoral student at Prescott College, Arizona, in Sustainable Education. While Ashley loves all animals, she holds a special place in her heart for bats. Swimming, hiking, watching sports, wine, and beer tasting are favorite pastimes, although there never seems to be enough free time to squeeze everything into her busy schedule.

**Sunshine Swinford, Director, Climate Action Corps**

Bio link: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/california-volunteers-welcomes-new-members-to-the-team/>

Bio: Sunshine joins the California Volunteers team with over 25 years of experience in community relations, engagement and activism. She has a deep passion for bringing people together to share experiences in efforts that improve the quality of life for everyone, in particular, the lives of the most vulnerable. With roots in Native Oklahoma, she grew up with a connection to nature, and believes that access to the basic needs of the environment; water, clean air, and healthy soils is a fundamental right of every individual and community. Last year, Sunshine launched her own consulting business, We Act Locally, another platform to mobilize and inspire people by building out engagement programs for local non-profits and by creating and managing corporate stewardship programs for the ever-growing tech industry in the Bay Area.

**CalVolunteers Climate Action Corp:** <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/climateactioncorps/>

California Service Corps link: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/california-service-corps/>

Earth Month volunteer link: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/earth-month-2024/>

Corps to Careers Announcement: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/californias-initiative-to-strengthen-career-pathways-has-people-talking/>

Cal Volunteers Central Valley Recruitment: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/california-volunteers-recruiting-in-the-central-valley-for-the-nations-largest-service-force/>

College Corps

Youthcorps

California Jobs First